

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6762

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1400

EXDIS

PARIS EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR

SUBJECT: TTB/PNE TALKS

1. TIMERBAYEV CALLED IN EMBOFF ON JANUARY 31 TO CONFIRM THAT SOVIETS AGREE TO HOLD THE INITIAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON TTB/PNE ON FEBRUARY 10. IN VIEW OF THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE TO TASHKENT (TO OPEN EXHIBIT) ON FEBRUARY 13 FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR DAYS, WE SUGGESTED THAT THE SECOND PLENARY BE TENTATIVELY SET FOR FEBRUARY 12. TIMERBAYEV AGREED. HE AGAIN REMINDED US THAT MOROKHOV WOULD BE ATTENDING THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING IN VIENNA ON FEBRUARY 25, PROBABLY DEPARTING MOSCOW ON FEBRUARY 22 OR 23 AND RETURNING FEBRUARY 27 AND 28. TIMERBAYEV SUGGESTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION, AAS WAS THE PRACTICE DURING THE FIRST ROUND.

2. EMBOFF INFORMED TIMERBAYEV THAT WE DID NOT YET HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT OUR DELEGATION WOULD ARRIVE IN MOSCOW IN TIME FOR A FEBRUARY 10 MEETING, BUT THAT WE WOULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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3. ON THE QUESTION OF PUBLICITY ON RECONVENING THE

TALKS, TIMERBAYEV SAID THAT WHILE SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENTS, SUCH AS WAS THE CASE LAST TIME, WOULD BE POSSIBLE, HE BELIEVED THAT A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE PREFERABLE. TO AVOID THE IMPASSE OVER REFERENCES TO ARTICLE V OR ARTICLE III, HE SUGGESTED THAT A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT THIS TIME COULD AVOID MENTION OF EITHER BY REFERRING TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE VLADIVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE. WHILE HE SUGGESTED NO SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, HE INDICATED THAT ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE WOULD BE SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF TECHNICAL TALKS "ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AS REFERRED TO IN THE VLADIVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE". WE SAID WE WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS.

4. TIMERBAYEV SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION CONSISTING OF MOROKHOV, ISRAEL (WHO HE INDICATED MIGHT BE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED MUCH OF THE TIME), SAFRONOV, AND HIMSELF, WOULD REMAIN AS BEFORE; MANY OF THE ADVISERS TO THE DELEGATION FROM THE FIRST ROUND WOULD BE RETURNING AS WELL, THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME SMALL CHANGES.

5. TIMERBAYEV THEN TURNED TO THE RECENT O'TOOLE ARTICLE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST AS REPRINTED IN THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDERED THE ARTICLE TO BE A VIOLATION OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE TALKS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE ARTICLE'S REFERENCE TO "DISARMAMENT SOURCES." HE SAID FURTHER THAT HIS REMARKS CONCERNED ONLY WHAT THE SOVIETS FELT TO BE A VIOLATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY, AND DID NOT TOUCH ON QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE IN THE ARTICLE, WHICH HE IMPLIED WERE DISTORTED. HE COMMENTED THAT MOROKHOV HAD ESPECIALLY ASKED THAT HE BRING THE MATTER TO OUR ATTENTION. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE ARTICLE, BUT WOULD REPORT TIMERBAYEV'S VIEWS. COMMENT: TIMERBAYEV AT NO TIME USED THE WORD "PROTEST", AND HE PRESENTED HIS STATEMENT EXTEMPORANEOUSLY, SMILING, AS IS HIS WONT, ALL THE TIME. WHILE THE SOVIETS MAY BE ANNOYED OVER THE ARTICLE, TIMERBAYEV AT LEAST DID NOT SEEM TO BE INCLINED TO LET IT DEVELOP INTO ANY SIGNIFICANT IRRITANT. END COMMENT.

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6. AS NOTED IN PARA 1 ABOVE, THE AMBASSADOR WILL NOT BE IN MOSCOW FEBRUARY 13-17, AND, TO ASSURE HIS PARTICIPATION IN AS MANY OF THE INITIAL MEETINGS AS POSSIBLE, HE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DELEGATION MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW IN TIME TO HOLD THE FIRST PLENARY ON FEBRUARY 19. WE ASSURED TIMERBAYEV WE WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER FOR HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON WHETHER THIS CAN BE ARRANGED.

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